



THE CITY OF LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

900 Church Street, Lynchburg, VA 24504
www.lynchburgva.gov
TEL: 434-455-3995

CITY COUNCIL

December 29, 2005

Ms. Melinda Wheeler
3400 Wilson Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24501

Dear Ms. Wheeler:

Pursuant to your request to present a petition to City Council seeking to ban open air burning in the City, I have scheduled you to appear before City Council on Tuesday, January 10, at 7:30 p.m. City Council meetings are held in the Council Chambers, 900 Church Street. If this date/time is not convenient, please give me a call at 455-3982.

Sincerely,

cc: Kimball Payne
City Manager

Dear Mrs. Kost,
I'd be happy to be put
on the schedule for the
January 10th meeting
if possible. You may
contact me at:
Wmel53@aol.com

OR: (434) 528-0663
Thanks so much!
m. wheeler

Melinda Wheeler
3400 Wilson Avenue
Lynchburg, Virginia
24501

January 10, 2006

**Statement to Lynchburg City Council
Opposing Open Burning of Leaves and Trash in Lynchburg City**

Good evening. My name is Melinda Wheeler, and I recently wrote to the Lynchburg City Council to let them know that I have been made ill by the outdoor burning of leaves and trash in Lynchburg City. Outdoor burning is done constantly in my neighborhood, and it affects my allergies, especially my allergy to mold, quite strongly. I have had breathing problems, sore throats, and have had to miss work to seek medical attention because of this.

Therefore, I would like to present the council with some information on the dangers of outdoor burning. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, backyard burning, as they call it, produces such air pollutants as:

Particle Pollution
Dioxins
Carbon Monoxide
Hexachlorobenzene
Ash

I would now like to read from the testimony of Donna Reynolds, of the American Lung Association of Virginia, which she gave in Chesterfield County on April 9, 2003 regarding open burning and the effects of particle pollution:

“Particulate matter is the generic term used for a type of air pollution that consists of complex and varying mixtures of particles suspended in the air we breathe. Particles are present everywhere, but high concentrations and/or specific types of particles have been found to present a serious danger to human health.

Particulate matter is a combination of fine solids such as dirt, soil dust, pollens, molds, ashes, and soot; Particles of special concern to the protection of lung health are those known as fine particles, less than 2.5 microns in diameter. (For comparison, a human hair is about 75 microns in diameter.) Fine particles are easily inhaled deeply into the lungs where they can be absorbed into the bloodstream or remain embedded for long periods of time. A recent study showed a 17% increase in mortality risk in areas with higher concentrations of small particles.

Particulate matter air pollution is especially harmful to people with lung disease such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema. Exposure to particulate air pollution can trigger asthma attacks and cause wheezing, coughing, and respiratory irritation in individuals with sensitive airways.

Recent research has also linked exposure to relatively low concentrations of particulate matter with premature death. Those at greatest risk are elderly and those with pre-existing respiratory or heart disease.

While the health risks associated with particulate pollution are serious, we must not overlook the fact that air pollution burdens our society through these adverse health outcomes. Some of the health care costs associated with air pollution include increased hospitalizations, emergency room visits, doctor office visits, lost work days and restricted activity days."

According to the American Lung Association of Virginia, there are 1,225 people in Lynchburg City suffering from Pediatric Asthma, and 4,021 people suffering from Adult Asthma. So on behalf of myself, the over 5,000 asthma sufferers, as well as those who suffer from Chronic Bronchitis, Emphysema, Heart Disease, and Diabetes, we ask the Council to ban the open air burning of leaves and trash in Lynchburg, and for residents instead to rely on the city collection of trash and leaves.

Melinda Wheeler

PETITION TO BAN OPEN AIR BURNING IN LYNCHBURG

We the undersigned request that the City of Lynchburg prohibit open air burning within city limits.

This dangerous practice is a health hazard that aggravates allergies and asthma, and causes second hand smoke inhalation, which in turn can cause severe respiratory problems for people in proximity to the fires. Let's end this practice and keep our air clean.

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

1. Melinda Wheeler 3400 Wilson Ave. L-burg, 528-0663
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3. Beatrice Turner 3320 Wilson Ave Lynchburg 845-7458
4. Randi Turey 1512 Somerset Dr Lynchburg 24503 ³⁸⁴⁻⁸⁴⁸
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6. Sandy Kinzer 1009 Sheffield Drive Lynchburg, Va. 24502 ²³⁷⁻⁷⁰³⁷
7. Jed Dechant 2412 Tate Springs Rd Lynchburg, VA 24501 ⁵²⁸⁻⁴²³⁸
Ap. 141

8. Lee New 110 FARLEY BRANCH, L'BURG 239-0144
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10. Louise Riley 1115 Heath Ave. Lynchburg 237-1394
11. Abbie West 21 County Pl. lane Lynchburg, Va 385-4423
12. Bonnie Harper 8108 Timberlake Rd¹⁰¹ Lynchburg 239-2111
13. Wendy Hagen 8108 Timberlake Rd¹⁰¹ Lynchburg 239-2111
14. Mary Stamba 198 Tim-rod Dr Lynchburg 239-8011
15. Kym White 901 Lone Meadow Drive 385-8979
16. Shula Carter 2029 Woodcrest Drive 24503 386-3114
17. Joy Strait 908 Westview Dr L'burg 24502
18. Barbara Clair 219 Norfolk Ave City 24505
19. Caryn McCreary 401 G Kerry Lane Lynchburg 24502

20. Manda Edwards 595 Takoma St. Lynchburg 832-1181

21. Kita Brown 110 Yorkshire Cr., Lynchburg, VA 24502

22. _____

23. Marjorie Wheeler-Bavelay 109 Heron Ave. 846-6650
Lynchburg 24503
1221 Bell Tavern Rd.

24. Subara Gittinger Lynchburg, 24503
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25. Jennifer Doss 432B Three Creeks Ct.
Lynchburg, VA 24502
434-851-1911

26. Spence Cross 1908 Quarry Rd.
Lynchburg, VA 24503
(434) 384-0461

27. Mark Protzman 213 Langhorne Lane
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28. Dawn C. Shackelford 265 Maple Hills Dr.
Lynchburg, VA 24502

29. MICHAEL TERRY 6208 EDGEWOOD AVE 24502

30. Laura Bailey 384-1557
4508 Trans Ferry Ct. 24503
5821 Rhonda Rd, 24502

31. Marsha Burks 237-0879

32. Lyndall Nairn 3501 Willow Lawn Dr. 386-9743
Lynchburg VA 24503

33. Mary J. Kidd 3509 Willow Lawn Dr 384-5994
Lynchburg, VA 24503

34. J. G. W. 3410 Hardy 845-1472
Lynchburg VA 24502

35. ELZA C. BUTNER I am an asthma sufferer!
18 W. Princeton Cir, 24503 528-2853

36. James A. Kern Libby 24504
309 Harrison St 847-4458
400 L STONE MLL DR

37. DAVID OLIVERIO LYNCHBURG 238-5411
206 Warren Ave.

38. Andrew E. Ford Lynchburg, VA 238-2516

39. Gregory Brown 201 Roundelay Circle
Lynchburg VA 832-8091
337 Wild Turkey Rd

40. Nancy Schneider Lynchburg, VA 24502 385-0424

41. W. T. Murphy 4109 MORNINGLIDE 384-2531
Lynchburg VA 24503

42. Paul C. Menichelli 1928 Gaymar Terrace 384-2571
Lynchburg, VA 24503

43. Richard Burke 3900 FACULTY DR 385-4588
LYNCHBURG, VA 24501

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We the undersigned request that the City of Lynchburg prohibit open air burning within city limits.

This dangerous practice is a health hazard that aggravates allergies and asthma, and causes second hand smoke inhalation, which in turn can cause severe respiratory problems for people in proximity to the fires. Let's end this practice and keep our air clean.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
		846-4528
44. <u>Merrill Tolbert</u>	<u>107 Huron Ave. Lynchburg, VA.</u>	<u>24503</u>
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47. Ricki May 3508 Round Hill Rd. 354256

47. ~~Dustin Williams P.O. Box 3945 Appomattox Va (434) 352-200~~

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62. David Curry 3303 Wilshire ^{L-burg} 845-5311

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67. Frances L. Young 3311 Memorial Ave ^{Lynchburg, VA} (434) 845-6712

68. Margaret Carey ⁴¹⁵ Monticello Ave. ^{Lynchburg VA} 245

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71. Thelma Tracy 397 Woodland Ave - Lynchburg 24503
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76. Ronald Saenger 391 Woodland Ave 24503
77. Michelle Denon 377a Woodland Ave Lynch 24503
78. Patricia McDermis 377H Woodland Ave Lynch 24503
79. Linda Jackson 373A Woodland Ave 846-4895
80. Cheryl Gresham 370 Woodland Ave 846-6568
81. Kathy Carter 349 Woodland Ave 24503
82. Jan H. Hester 341 Woodland Ave
528-6524

L-24503

83. Angie Falcone 339 Woodland Ave 845-3941
84. Mark Youlum 336 Woodland Ave 847-0550
85. Carolyn Pelloway 334 Woodland Ave 845-4801
86. Jennifer Elliott 324 Woodland Ave 528-1240
87. Barbara Shedd 308 Sumpter St. 528-4232
88. D. M. Clark 308 Sumpter St. 528-4232
89. Lucy L. Hicks 314 Sumpter 846 7086
90. Paula Lewis 221 Woodland Ave 528-0211
91. Earl Matton 1506 Fillmore St 426-5490
92. Naomi Amos 100 E. Randolph Pl. 846-0741
93. Carolyn Bell 42 N. Princeton Circle 847-5339
94. Richard L. Barnes 56 N. Princeton Cir. 846-4434

95. JENNIFER GLENN 18 RIVERVIEW PL LYNCHBURG 546-7075

96. Diene Wilson 2190 Woodcrest Dr. Lynchburg 384-2831

97. Donna M Stoman 108 Woodbridge Cir. Lynchburg, VA 24502

98. R. Jan Orr 228 Ivy Dr. Lynchburg, Va. 24503

99. Paula Callaway 306 Keyword Dr. Lynchburg, VA 24501

100. Bea Clure 3564 Round Hill Rd Lynch 24503

101. Dorely J Gorsuch 2136 Camington Rd. Lynch 24501

Donna Reynolds.
American Lung Association of Va.
1-800-345-5864
dreynolds@lungva.org



**Statement
Chesterfield County
Open Burning Ordinance
April 9, 2003**

Good evening. My name is Donna Reynolds and I serve as the Director of Community Relations for the American Lung Association of Virginia. The American Lung Association of Virginia works to promote lung health and protect lung disease. Toward that end, I am here this evening to speak in support of an ordinance to toughen open burning restrictions in Chesterfield County.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the open burning of land clearing debris creates substantial emissions of a large number of pollutants including carbon monoxide, particulate matter, benzene, acetone, toluene, ethyl benzene, pinene, naphthalene, phenol and 14 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. (I have provided each member with a copy of this study along with my comments.)

While many of these pollutants are known to be toxic to humans and cause a wide range of serious health effects, I would like to limit my comments this evening to pollutants called particulates.

Particulate matter is the generic term used for a type of air pollution that consists of complex and varying mixtures of particles suspended in the air we breathe. Particles are present everywhere, but high concentrations and/or specific types of particles have been found to present a serious danger to human health.

Particulate matter is a combination of fine solids such as dirt, soil dust, pollens, molds, ashes, and soot; and aerosols that are formed in the atmosphere from gaseous combustion by-products such as volatile organic compounds, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides.

Particles of special concern to the protection of lung health are those known as fine particles, less than 2.5 microns in diameter. (For comparison, a human hair is about 75 microns in diameter.) Fine particles are easily inhaled deeply into the lungs where they can be absorbed into the bloodstream or remain embedded for long periods of time. A recent study showed a 17% increase in mortality risk in areas with higher concentrations of small particles.

Particulate matter air pollution is especially harmful to people with lung disease such as

asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema. Exposure to particulate air pollution can trigger asthma attacks and cause wheezing, coughing, and respiratory irritation in individuals with sensitive airways.

Recent research has also linked exposure to relatively low concentrations of particulate matter with premature death. Those at greatest risk are the elderly and those with pre-existing respiratory or heart disease.

While the health risks associated with particulate pollution are serious, we must not overlook the fact that air pollution burdens our society through these adverse health outcomes. Some of the health care costs associated with air pollution include increased hospitalizations, emergency room visits, doctor office visits, lost work days and restricted activity days.

The current federal standard for particulate matter (PM₁₀) is 150 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) of air averaged over 24 hours and 50 ug/m³ averaged over a one-year period. In July 1997, the U.S. EPA set a new stricter standard that will regulate fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) for the first time: 65 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) measured over a 24-hour period and 15 ug/m³ averaged over a year. The new standard will be phased in over the next few years.

According to the most recent data collected, several areas of Virginia will not meet the new health-based standard for particulate pollution. At this time, Richmond is challenged as one of the areas that may barely meet the new standard. We believe any efforts by local governments to restrict air pollution will assist with helping the region meet these new standards and protect the air our citizens breathe.

On behalf of the American Lung Association of Virginia, I urge you to adopt a more restrictive open burning ordinance in Chesterfield County to protect public health and improve the quality of the air our children and families breathe. Thank you.

(Selected Key Studies On Particulate Matter and Health: 1997-2001)



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Human Health

Burning trash in the open produces many pollutants, including:

- dioxins,
- particle pollution,
- polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons,
- volatile organic compounds,
- carbon monoxide,
- hexachlorobenzene, and
- ash.



Courtesy of Peter Doyle

Many dangerous health conditions can be caused by inhaling or ingesting even small amounts of these pollutants. Small children, the elderly, or people with preexisting respiratory conditions can be especially vulnerable to some of these pollutants.

Dioxins

Backyard burning is of particular health concern because it produces significant quantities of dioxins. Dioxins and "dioxin like" compounds are a group of 30 highly toxic chlorinated organic chemicals. They are produced naturally in small quantities, but are primarily the result of human activity. They can be produced through industrial processes such as chlorinated chemical manufacturing and metal smelting. Currently, however, the largest quantified source of dioxin emissions is the uncontrolled burning of household trash (backyard burning). Studies have shown that only small amounts of chlorinated materials in waste are required to support dioxin formation when burning waste. This means that even when materials containing high levels of chlorine, such as PVC, are removed from household trash, burning the waste still creates dioxins because nearly all household waste contains trace amounts of chlorine.

Much of the dioxins created and released into the air through backyard burning settle on plants. These plants are, in turn, eaten by meat and dairy animals, which store the dioxins in their fatty tissue. People are exposed to dioxins primarily by eating meat, fish, and dairy products, especially those high in fat. Backyard burning occurs most commonly in rural farming areas where dioxin emissions can more easily be deposited on animal feed crops and grazing lands. These dioxins then accumulate in the fats of dairy cows, beef, poultry, and swine, making human consumption of these harmful chemicals difficult to avoid.

Dioxins are classified as persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic pollutants (PBTs). PBTs are highly toxic, long-lasting substances that can build up in the food chain to levels that are harmful to human and ecosystem health. Persistent means they remain in the environment for extended periods of time. Bioaccumulative means their concentration levels increase as they move up the food chain. As a consequence, animals at the top of the food chain (such as humans) tend to have the highest dioxin concentrations in their bodies.

Dioxins are potent toxicants with the potential to produce a broad spectrum of adverse effects in humans. Dioxins can alter the fundamental growth and development of cells in ways that have the potential to lead to many kinds of impacts. These include adverse effects upon reproduction and development, suppression of the immune system, disruption

of hormonal systems, and cancer. For more detailed information on dioxin health effects, safety issues, and risk, visit EPA's Dioxin and Related Compounds Web site.

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Particle Pollution

Particle pollution, also referred to as particulate matter, or PM, refers to microscopic particles released by open burning. Particles that are small enough to get into the lungs (those less than or equal to 10 um in diameter) can cause numerous health problems. Particles can aggravate respiratory conditions such as asthma and bronchitis, and have been associated with cardiac arrhythmia (heartbeat irregularities) and heart attacks. People with heart or lung disease, the elderly, and children are at highest risk from exposure to particles. For more information EPA's particulate matter site.

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Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs, are a group of chemicals commonly found in particulate matter (or smoke and soot) released from backyard burning. They are formed from the incomplete combustion of certain materials. Some PAHs are carcinogenic, or cancer-causing.

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Volatile Organic Compounds

People in the immediate vicinity of a burn barrel are also exposed to high levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) produced by open burning. Many VOCs are harmful to humans. They also contribute to ground-level ozone pollution, also known as smog, which can worsen respiratory, heart, and other existing health problems. Inhaling certain VOCs can lead to eye, nose, and throat irritation; headache; loss of coordination; nausea; and damage to liver, kidney, and central nervous system.

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Carbon Monoxide

Another major pollutant generated by backyard burning is carbon monoxide (CO). At low levels of exposure to CO, humans may experience a variety of neurological symptoms including headache, fatigue, nausea, and vomiting. For more information, visit EPA's carbon monoxide site.

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Hexachlorobenzene

Hexachlorobenzene, or HCB, is a highly persistent environmental toxin that degrades slowly in air and, consequently, undergoes long-range atmospheric transport. HCB bioaccumulates in fish, marine animals, birds, lichens, and animals that feed on fish or lichens. Based on studies conducted on animals, long-term low-level exposures may damage a developing fetus, cause cancer, lead to kidney and liver damage, and cause fatigue and skin irritation. HCB is considered a probable human carcinogen and is toxic by all routes of exposure.

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Ash

Backyard burning also produces ash residue, which can contain toxic metals such as mercury, lead, chromium, and arsenic. These metals can be toxic when ingested. When a person ingests hazardous amounts of lead, for example, he or she may experience high blood pressure, cardiovascular problems, kidney damage, and brain damage. Unaware of the potential danger, some people scatter the ash in their gardens or bury it on their property. Garden vegetables can absorb and accumulate these metals, which can make them dangerous to eat. Children playing in the yard or garden can incidentally ingest soil containing these metals. Also, rain can wash the ash into groundwater and surface water, contaminating drinking water and food.

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Last updated on Wednesday, September 17th, 2003
URL: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/backyard/health.htm>



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Environmental Effects

Backyard burning produces various compounds toxic to the environment including nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carbon monoxide, and particle pollution.

- Nitrogen oxides, or NO_x, is a group of nitrogen compounds that are partially responsible for acid rain and contribute to global warming, ozone depletion, and the formation of smog.
- Volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, are carbon-based compounds that undergo photochemical reactions (i.e., they react with sunlight) when released into the atmosphere. The VOCs and the compounds they form in the atmosphere, such as ozone, contribute to the formation of smog.
- Carbon monoxide, or CO, chemically reacts with sunlight to create harmful ozone. CO production can significantly impact ambient air quality and a region's ability to meet Clean Air Act regulatory air quality standards. Burning garbage in a barrel or pile produces more CO than decomposition in a landfill. CO is also a significant greenhouse gas.
- Particle pollution, also known as particulate matter, or PM, refers to the fine particles that produce visible smoke that reduce visibility and creates haze, which is a major air pollution problem for many rural communities. In addition to being unhealthful, particles soil our homes and cars and transport dangerous chemicals, such as dioxins.

Fires

Backyard burning is also frequently the cause of residential, brush, and forest fires, particularly during drought conditions. In Wisconsin, 35 percent of wildfires were started by uncontrolled burning of garbage, brush, and grass. Often, fire hazards are caused by burn piles or barrels left unattended, which grow too large or are not fully extinguished.

